

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present Application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks/arguments. Claims 1-25 were originally filed in the present Application. By Preliminary Amendment, claims 2, 4, 5, 9, 19 and 20 were canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 26-48 were added, and claims 1, 3, 6-8, 10-18 and 23-25 were amended. By prior Amendment, Applicants amended claims 1, 3 and 8, canceled claim 10, and withdrew claims 6, 12, 14-18 and 21-48 in response to the Examiner's Restriction Requirement. By another previous Amendment, the Applicants amended claims 1, 7, 8, 11 and 13, and added new claim 49.

By the present Amendment, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 7, 11 and 49, canceled claim 3, and have withdrawn claims 6, 8 and 13 pending the allowance of a generic independent claim on which these claims may depend. Also, the Applicants have added new claims 50-64. In addition, the Applicants have canceled claims 18, 21-24 and 26-28, comprising Group II and being drawn to a non-elected method, as well as claims 25 and 35-48, comprising Group III and being drawn to a non-elected railing/fencing kit and method of assembling thereof. Accordingly, claims 1, 7, 11 and 49-64 are pending in the present Application. No new matter has been added.

I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

An in-person interview between the Examiner and Applicants Attorneys of Record, John Flaim and Brian McCormack, took place on February 2, 2006, at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. A sample product and proposed Amendment was presented to the Examiner during the Interview. Upon discussion of pending independent claim 1 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,164,538 to McClain III, it was agreed that the Applicants would present an amended claim

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